Environmental Education Programs
FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

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Dear Teachers,

We’re so glad you’re considering a visit to Irvine Nature Center. We have a wide variety of environmental education programs for students and teachers – including high-quality field trips, engaging classroom presentations and informative teacher workshops.

Our facilities include a green building with classrooms, a certified Outdoor Classroom and an Exhibit Hall with several species of native animals. We are a perfect spot for exploring the outdoors, with 210 acres of forests, meadows, streams and wetlands.

Field trips to Irvine complement Baltimore County and City Public School science curricula, Environmental Literacy Standards, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and are easily adapted to coursework at private schools and neighboring counties. If your class is unable to travel to Irvine, we also offer Nature in the Classroom so that children can interact with nature at your location.

Completed forms can be sent by mail, fax or email. Please see the forms within this brochure. Be sure to let us know if you have thoughts or questions – we look forward to working with you and your school group.

Sincerely,

Robert Mardiney
Director of Education
Irvine Nature Center

DID YOU KNOW?

Irvine also offers educational programs for the general public (children, families, adults, scout groups, community organizations).

For information, contact Tara at 443-738-9211 or LilleyT@ExploreNature.org. You can also visit us online at www.ExploreNature.org for an updated calendar of programs and events.
General Information

FIELD TRIPS
During most trips, students work in small groups to make observations, collect data, compare and classify organisms, and draw conclusions. Students who visit Irvine receive the maximum benefit if the trip is taught as one part of a school unit.

To help enrich the experience, Irvine sends background information and pre/post field trip activity suggestions to teachers. Many of our field trips complement the Baltimore County Public School science curriculum (see table on page 4), Environmental Literacy Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.

To schedule a trip, complete and return the enclosed registration form as soon as possible. Forms will be processed in the order they are received.

Private School and Home School Groups
In addition to the listed field trip topics, private and home school groups can contact Irvine to see if programs can be tailored to their specific science curriculum.

Middle School, High School & College Groups
Field trips for middle school, high school and college groups are tailored to the needs of the specific class. Modifications of some trips can be arranged for older age groups and we welcome requests for other topics. Teachers should call Irvine to discuss options. Check out the new Team Building field trip on page 5.

Special Needs Student Groups
Children with special needs can benefit from brief nature walks and hands-on animal demonstrations either at Irvine or as an outreach program. Call us for details.

Need Help?
Contact Tara Lilley at 443-738-9211 or LilleyT@ExploreNature.org.

2018-2019 FIELD TRIP SEASONS
September 17- November 30
January 28-March
8 March 25- May 31

ABOUT IRVINE
Established as a non-profit in 1975, Irvine Nature Center is an environmental education organization. Our mission is to educate and inspire current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature. At Irvine, we guide learning. We live green. We foster respect. And we thrive outdoors.
Field Trips

Irvine offers 12 different field trips for school groups. The descriptions below will help you find the program that works best for your students. All field trips are led by Irvine’s team of knowledgeable naturalists.

To register for a field trip, complete and return the appropriate forms.

For more information, contact Tara Lilley at 443-738-9211 or LilleyT@ExploreNature.org.

SENSATIONAL SEASONS
Children use all of their senses as they explore the woods, meadows and other habitats surrounding Irvine and the natural events characteristic of the current season. This program complements the Baltimore County kindergarten unit Checkerspot Challenge.

Age 4 – K and 1 – 3rd grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>PreK-K</td>
<td>1st-3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$6/student</td>
<td>$8/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAPLE MAGIC
Students learn how to recognize maple trees, how sap moves within trees and how the sap is collected and made into syrup. This program complements many Baltimore County units, including Checkerspot Challenge (K), Let Us Grow (3), and Turtle Trouble (4).

Ages 4 - College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$6/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>February 1 - March 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEE-LIEVE IT OR NOT
Students will visit Irvine’s meadow to observe pollinators up close and in action! They will learn about the important components of an animal’s habitat, and how a meadow supports these needs for both butterflies and bees. The connection between pollinators, plants, and people will also be explored. This program complements the Baltimore County kindergarten unit Checkerspot Challenge.

K-1st grade and 2nd-3rd grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>50</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Sept-Oct</td>
<td>Sep-Oct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CREATURE FEATURES
Students take to the trails to catch, observe and release a variety of mini-beasts (insects, salamanders, etc.) in different habitats. They will learn how animals survive in the habitats they live in based on their adaptations. An indoor presentation introduces animal adaptations through the use of both live animals and animal artifacts. This program complements the Baltimore County 1st grade unit Creeper and Creature Features and 2nd grade unit Bee an Engineer. 1st - 2nd grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$8/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
</tr>
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</table>

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
Students transform into scientists as they investigate the diversity of plants and animals in Irvine’s stream, meadow, and forest habitats. Students receive hands on instruction through a station based field trip. This program complements the Baltimore County 2nd grade unit Bee an Engineer and the 3rd grade unit Murray the Mayfly.

2nd-3rd grade

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
<th>30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$8/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DECOMPOSITION DETECTIVES
Students learn how energy flows through a food web and how decomposers break down organic material. Students do their own research and draw conclusions about the relationship between the size of earthworm populations and habitat type. Students leave with data that can be used in the classroom to create charts, graphs and reports, adding a cross-curricular component. This program complements the Baltimore County 3rd grade unit Murray the Mayfly and 4th grade unit Turtle Trouble.

3rd-4th grade

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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$8/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>3 hours (morning only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
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</table>

AQUATIC DISCOVERIES
Students explore Irvine’s aquatic habitats in search of the unique plants and animals that live here. By making careful observations of their surroundings and collecting data on water quality and animal life, students analyze the health of these ecosystems. Students also discuss the importance of streams and wetlands and how they contribute to the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay. This program complements the Baltimore County 3rd grade unit Murray the Mayfly and 4th grade unit Turtle Trouble.

3rd-8th grade

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<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$8/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>3 hours (morning only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BIRD IS THE WORD
Students will get hands on field research experience by conducting a bird census and recording observations of behaviors, flight patterns, field marks and habitats. With an emphasis on adaptations that support survival. Students will also learn the flow of energy through a raptor’s diet. An indoor presentation (featuring both live and stuffed birds, nests and feathers) introduces the unique adaptations of birds in an up close encounter. This program complements Baltimore County 4th grade unit Turtle Trouble.

4th - 5th grade

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<tr>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$8/student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>3 hours (morning only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WILDERNESS SURVIVAL
New! All living things need certain conditions and resources to survive. Experience wilderness survival first hand through activities designed to encourage problem solving, teambuilding, and an understanding of basic human, animal, and plant needs.

6th-8th grade.
Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $8/student
Length: 3 hours
Timing: Fall & Spring

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Discuss how to make science come alive, the effective use of a nature center’s resources and how to prepare for a field trip. We’ll also experience an outdoor walk involving hands-on, environmental games and activities. Recommended for college majors in natural sciences, education, psychology and other related areas.

College classes.
Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $8/student
Length: 3 hours
Timing: Fall-Summer

NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE EASTERN WOODLANDS
Take a step back in time by exploring Irvine Nature Center’s new Native American site. Learn how pre-colonial Native Americans used local natural resources to thrive as a community. Students will learn about tools, clothing, foods, living structures, fire-making methods as well as Native American games and communication.

3rd-8th grade.
Max Group Size: 40
Cost: $8/student
Length: 3 hours
Timing: Fall & Spring

OBSTACLES ARE OPPORTUNITIES: TEAMBUILDING AND INVASIVE SPECIES (*New Service Learning Field Trip*)
Service learning is an effective way to build and foster connections with each other and the environment. Students will enjoy teambuilding activities to strengthen communication and then test their skills by removing invasive plants. Together we can make a difference!

6th-12th grade. Cost: $8/student Length: 3 hours Timing: Fall & Late Spring

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRIP NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>MAX # OF</th>
<th>AGE/ GRADE</th>
<th>SEASONS</th>
<th>BCPS GRADE CURRICULUM LINK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sensational Seasons</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Age 4 – K</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td>K-Checkerspot Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1st – 3rd</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Maple Magic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Age 4 – college</td>
<td>Feb.-mid March</td>
<td>K-Checkerspot Challenge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1st – 3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-Let Us Grow 4-Turtle Trouble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bee-lieve it or Not!</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Age 4-K</td>
<td>Sept.-Oct.; April-May</td>
<td>K-Checkerspot Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1st – 2nd</td>
<td>Sept.-Oct.; April-May</td>
<td>2- Bee an Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creature Features</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1st – 2nd</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td>1-Creeper + Creature Features</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2-Bee an Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where the Wild Things Are</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2nd – 3rd</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td>2-Bee an Engineer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3-Murray the Mayfly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decomposition Detectives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3rd – 4th</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td>3-Murray the Mayfly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4-Turtle Trouble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquatic Discoveries</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3rd – 8th</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td>3-Murray the Mayfly</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4-Turtle Trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird is the Word</td>
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<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4th – 5th</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
<td>4-Turtle Trouble</td>
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<td>Wilderness Survival</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3rd – 8th</td>
<td>fall, spring</td>
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<td>Native Americans...</td>
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<td>$8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3rd-6th</td>
<td>fall, spring, summer</td>
<td>4-Earliest Americans</td>
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<td>Obstacles are Opportunities...</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6th, 12th</td>
<td>fall, late spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to Environmental Ed.</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>fall, spring, summer</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All three-hour field trips include a 30-minute lunch break.
Field Trip Registration Procedures

To Schedule An Irvine Field Trip:
Read the instructions and the entire registration form carefully.

Complete the registration form in this brochure. More copies of the form can be printed from www.ExploreNature.org.

Return the form to Irvine as soon as possible by mail, email (LilleyT@ExploreNature.org), fax (410-902-8210) or hand delivery.

Phone registrations are not accepted. Registrations are processed in the order they are received. You will be notified of your field trip status by email.

COMPLETING IRVINE’S REGISTRATION FORMS
1. Fill out the top section of the Field Trip Registration Form with school or organization and contact information.
2. Complete the chart requesting specific field trip information for each group that you wish to schedule.
3. Write your top three field trip date choices on the form.

GROUP SIZE
Irvine can accommodate a maximum of 50 students each morning or afternoon.

Teachers wishing to schedule groups larger than 50 should divide the class into smaller groups and schedule them on different days.

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate groups of less than 5 students. Groups between 5 and 10 students will be charged for 10 students.

FIELD TRIP PREPARATION
Field trips take place outdoors. Children and adults should dress appropriately for weather conditions. Please be sure that all students have name tags. Irvine provides one leader for each trail group of 10 students. It is helpful if students are broken into trail groups prior to arrival.

CHAPERONES & CARPOOLING
The group should bring a minimum of one adult but no more than two adults for every 10 students. Adults include teachers, teacher aides and parents. There is no charge for accompanying adults. Carpooling is encouraged.

STARTING TIMES
Morning trips usually begin at 10 a.m. and afternoon trips at 12:30 p.m. or later. However, start times are flexible. Please read your field trip description for limitations.

WEATHER CONDITIONS
Irvine will not make a decision on weather-cancellations until very early the morning of the program. If Irvine deems weather conditions unsafe, your contact person will be called by an Irvine staff person.

FIELD TRIP CONFIRMATION
Once your school is scheduled, we will email you a confirmation packet. If we are unable to schedule a field trip, we will call and notify you and place your group on a waitlist.
PROGRAM DATES
Please list your top three program date choices below. We will send you a confirmation notice once it has been scheduled. Please observe the field trip season dates, and remember to avoid:

• School holidays
• Teacher professional development days
• Student testing days

The following dates are NOT available:

• October 4-5 and October 24-26

1. ___________________________
2. ___________________________
3. ___________________________

2018-2019 FIELD TRIP SEASONS
September 17- November 30
January 28-March 8
March 25th- May 31

Field Trip
REGISTRATION FORM (2018 - 2019 SCHOOL YEAR)

Instructions: Please clearly complete all sections of this registration form. Submit your form via mail, email, fax or in-person as soon as possible. Retain a copy for your records.

School or Organization______________________________ _Public _Private
Contact Person ________________________________ __Home _School
Address ________________________________ State ______________ Zip ___________
City__________________________________________Phone (School) ______________ Phone (Home) __________________________

Group #
Grade
Trip Title
# Of Children
Desired Start Time
Picnic Lunch
At Irvine?
EXAMPLE K Sensational Seasons 35 10 a.m. Y N
Group 1 Y N
Group 2 Y N
Group 3 Y N

Please note: A minimum of one, but no more than two adults per 10 students is allowed.

If you prefer mornings, but mornings are filled, would you accept an afternoon: _Yes _No

What is the latest time your group could leave Irvine? (Remember your bus schedule.) ______________

Is this a Title 1 School? _Yes _No

How many students have an IEP? ___________ How many students have a 504 plan? ___________

Do your students have any special physical, behavioral, or educational needs that our staff should be aware of? _Yes _No

If yes, please explain __________________________________________

________________________________________

How did you hear about our field trips?
_Magazine/Newspaper ____________________________
_Word of Mouth _________________________________
_School _________________________________
_Internet ________________________________

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Received
Confirmation sent
Nature in the Classroom

Irvine’s Nature in the Classroom program is designed for groups that cannot visit us. These programs take place at your school.

Traveling expenses of $25 will be added for schools located more than 20 miles away. Irvine cannot travel more than 40 miles for a program.

Complete and return the form in this brochure or at www.ExploreNature.org by mail, fax (410-902-8210), email, or via person.

For more information, contact Tara Lilley at 443-738-9211 or LilleyT@ExploreNature.org

ALL ABOUT ANIMALS
Why can a frog not fly? Why do worms wiggle? How do you know an animal is alive? During an interactive presentation with several live animals, animal mounts, and animal artifacts students will learn how to classify animals based on their features. Age 3–K.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $150
Length: 45 minutes

ANIMAL SUPER HEROES
What animal super powers would you like to have? Students learn about the awesome adaptations that animals have to survive. Children hear a story about animals, meet a variety of live animals and mimic different animals’ super powers. Pre-K – K.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $150
Length: 45 minutes

TAKING CARE OF THE EARTH
Students will participate in exciting hands-on explorations that help them discover the many ways they can help take care of the earth. From recycling to composting, students will leave knowing that they can make a big difference. K – 2nd grade.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $200
Length: 1.5 hour

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
This hands-on program provides students with the opportunity to observe, touch, and learn about unique animal adaptations. We’ll guide students toward the discovery of exceptional animal characteristics and behaviors that help organisms survive. 1st – 6th grade.

Max Group Size: 60
Cost: $175
Length: 1 hour

CHESAPEAKE CONNECTIONS
The Chesapeake Bay, famous for its bounty and rich history, needs continued stewardship to protect its many resources. We’ll lead students through hands-on activity stations that explore water quality, the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its tributaries, and actions students can take to help keep our Bay healthy. 3rd – 6th grade.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $200
Length: 1.5 hours

MARYLAND’S NATIVE AMERICANS
This program focuses on Native American use of local natural resources. A hands-on presentation discusses friction fire-making...

TRIP NAME | LENGTH (HRS) | COST | GRADE/AGE | BCPS GRADE-CURRICULUM LINK
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
All About Animals | ¾ hour | $150 | Age 3–K | K-Checkerspot Challenge
Animal Super Heroes | ¾ hour | $150 | Pre-K – K | K-Checkerspot Challenge
Taking Care of the Earth | 1½ | $200 | K – 2nd | K-Checkerspot Challenge
Survival of the Fittest | 1 | $175 | 1st – 6th | 1-Creature Features
| | | | 2-Bee an Engineer
| | | | 3-Let Us Grow
| | | | 4-Turtle Trouble
Chesapeake Connections | 1½ | $200 | 3rd – 6th | 3-Let Us Grow
MD’s Native Americans | 1½ | $200 | 3rd – 6th | Culture
Earth Rocks! | 1½ | $200 | 3rd – 6th | 3-Murray the Mayfly
Hunters of the Sky | 2 | $200 | 3rd – 6th | 3-Let Us Grow
| | | | 4-Turtle Trouble

EARTH ROCKS!
Students learn about rocks and minerals first-hand. This introductory program includes a series of hands-on activity stations that teach students to identify minerals and rocks through observation and experimentation. 3rd – 6th grade.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $200
Length: 1.5 hours

HUNTERS OF THE SKY
Take an in-depth look at hawks and owls, using mounts and live animals, to study how their adaptations allow them to survive in Maryland’s ecosystems. Learn about unique traits common to all birds of prey. Groups rotate among hands-on stations to explore owl pellets, migration, and bio magnification. 3rd – 6th grade.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $200
Length: 2 hours

...methods, replica tools and equipment, and Native American games and communication.

3rd – 6th grade.

Max Group Size: 30
Cost: $200
Length: 1.5 hours

For more information, contact Tara Lilley at 443-738-9211 or LilleyT@ExploreNature.org
REGISTRATION FORM (2018 - 2019 SCHOOL YEAR)
Instructions: Please clearly complete all sections of this registration form. Submit your form via mail, email, fax or in-person as soon as possible. Retain a copy for your records.

School or Organization__________________________________________  _Public  _Private
Contact Person __________________________________________________________

Mailing Address:
Address__________________________________________________________  _Home  _School
City_________________________ State__________ Zip__________
Phone (School)__________________ Phone (Home)__________________
Best Time to Contact You ____________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________________________

Program Address (if different from mailing address):
Address__________________________________________________________
City_________________________ State__________ Zip__________

Location: _Baltimore County  _Baltimore City  _Other: Please specify ______

School Level: _PreK-K  _Elementary School  _Middle School

Program Name ______________________________________________________
Age/Grade Level ____________________________________________________

Desired Start Time ___________________________________________________

Number of Participants Expected__________Number of Teachers__________

Attending Is this a Title 1 School? __Yes __No
How many students have an IEP?__________How many students have a 504 plan?__________
Do your students have any special physical, behavioral, or educational needs that our staff should be aware of? __Yes __No

If yes, please explain ________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

How did you hear about our program?
__Magazine/Newspaper______________________________________________
__Word of Mouth____________________________________________________
__School  _Internet

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received __________________________
Confirmation sent ____________________

PROGRAM DATES
Please list your top three program date choices below. We will send you a confirmation notice once it has been scheduled. Please remember to avoid:
• School holidays
• Teacher professional development days
• Student testing days

PROGRAMS WILL START AT 10AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

$25 TRAVEL FEE ADDED FOR SCHOOLS MORE THAN 20 MILES FROM IRVINE.
Teacher Professional Development

Irvine offers professional development courses and workshops for teachers to help integrate environmental education and outdoor learning into the curriculum. These programs may be tailored to meet the needs of your group. For more information, contact Tara Lilley at LilleyT@ExploreNature.org.

You can also visit www.ExploreNature.org for updated information on dates and times.

**MSDE IN-SERVICE CREDIT COURSE**

**Animal Adaptations, Habitats & Classification**
15 hours, 1 MSDE In-service credit
Dates: TBD

Using Irvine’s extensive live and preserved animal collections, teachers will participate in many hands-on, STEM-focused activities for use in the classroom and on the schoolyard. The course will include detailed background content on vertebrate and invertebrate animals and project-based activities such as conducting a habitat analysis, monitoring a schoolyard nest box and investigating earthworms. Links to local and national science standards are included. All participants will receive a Project WILD curriculum guide.

**MSDE CLOCK-HOUR WORKSHOPS**

**MSDE Office of Child Care Approval Number: CKO-6041**

**Nature-based Learning: Indoors and Out!**
6 MSDE clock-hours
(Content area: 6 hours Curriculum)
Dates: TBD

What is nature-based learning? What role does it play in an early childhood program? How can educators offer nature-based experiences with limited resources and outdoor space? In class, we address ways to incorporate MD State Curriculum Standards through innovative activities in nature and with natural and recycled materials. No matter what the setting or population, educators will gain skills and strategies to create engaging nature-based lessons that align with science, language and literacy, physical fitness, and fine art standards.

**Telling Stories: Language and Literacy in Nature**
3 MSDE clock-hours
(Content area: 3 hours Curriculum)
Dates: TBD

Discover how stories and storytelling can capture students’ imaginations while developing language and literacy skills. Various story formats will be explored in this class. Stories encompass a range of language skills while promoting a love of nature, too! Educators will explore printed books as well as Native American oral stories. We will also share innovative ways to engage students in storytelling.

**Planning Your Outdoor Classroom**
6 MSDE clock-hours (Content areas: 1 hour Child Development, 2 hours Community, and 3 hours Curriculum)
Dates: TBD

How do you go about creating an enriching outdoor setting with limited time, space and resources? Join The Nature Preschool staff at Irvine as we share the triumphs (and harrumphs) of designing and building an outdoor classroom. Participants will discover interactive elements of effective natural learning environments and ways to get started. We will also dig into cost-effective strategies for obtaining materials and labor to make your dream space a reality. In addition, nature-based curriculum ideas will be shared to inspire the design of your outdoor classroom.

**The Artistry of Nature-based Learning**
6 MSDE clock hours
Dates: TBD

Curriculum comes alive when children explore nature and reflect through creative pursuits in visual, dramatic, movement and musical arts. Join The Nature Preschool staff at Irvine to discover how children build skills through magical, expressive media. In this program, we examine the connection...
between science, outdoor learning and inquiry-based approaches as we learn outdoors and participate in a variety art experiences.

**NON-CREDIT WORKSHOPS**
- Project WILD / Aquatic WILD
- Project WET
- Project Learning Tree (PLT)
- Wonders of Wetlands
- Growing Up WILD
- Flying WILD
- Early Childhood PLT

These seven environmental education workshops include many hands-on activities for use in the classroom and the schoolyard. Workshops range from 4-6 hours in length. Participants receive a curriculum guide with dozens of activities.

DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for teaching the next generation of children who will explore, respect and protect nature! In recognition of your ongoing efforts, Irvine offers a special, discounted membership option for Maryland teachers. Members enjoy free and low-cost program fees, exclusive access to the Outdoor Classroom and 10% off all items in the Nature Store. To take advantage of this offer, you must call Lindsey at 443-738-9222.

$35 - Full Time Teacher Rate

IRVINE'S ECO-EXPLORERS

Need a fun and inspiring alternative to after school care for your students?

Continue learning after the bell rings!

• Nature discovery
• Science experiments
• Live animal encounters
• Nature crafts
• Active exploration of the outdoors!

Contact Tara at LilleyT@ExploreNature.org for more information about our Irvine’s Eco-Explorers!

Ask for it at your school!